

Appln. No.: 10/659,478
Amendment Dated July 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 11, 2007

BSI-260US3

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Figure 7D. This sheet replaces the previous sheet.

Attachment

Remarks/Arguments:

With the present response, claims 42-44, 46-55, and 57-60 are pending. Claims 58 and 59 have been amended to change their dependencies from claim 57 to claim 42. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 48, 50, 51, 54, 58, and 60 are no longer withdrawn.

Objections

With regard to claims 42-44, 46-55, and 57-60, the Office Action states that there is no clear basis in the specification for any "member." The Specification has been amended to recite the following exemplary elements as members: a sheath 42 (page 8, line 9), a crochet weave 80 (page 10, line 16), and an adhesive (page 11, line 6). Applicant respectfully submits that the claims match the Specification and that it is clear which element of the claims corresponds to an element disclosed in the Specification. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 46 stands objected to because the element "the free end" allegedly lacks antecedent basis. Claim 46 has been amended to recite "the opposite end," which has antecedent basis in claim 42, from which claim 46 depends. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 52 and 53 stand objected to for allegedly not having antecedent basis in the Specification or drawings for "an uncovered portion in an expanded configuration" or a "third member" as claimed. Applicant respectfully submits that an exemplary "uncovered portion in an expanded configuration" is shown as distal stent end 62 in FIG. 7A as further illustrated in FIG. 7D. An exemplary third member is suture 68, also shown in FIG. 7A. *See also*, the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 25 of the Specification, which discloses both distal stent end 62 and suture 68. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 57 stands objected to for allegedly not having antecedent basis in the Specification for a slidable inner core. The Office Action state that the slidable inner core appears to be shown in FIG. 3C. An exemplary slidable inner core is shown in FIG. 3C as element 48. The sliding feature of inner core 48 is disclosed in the Specification in the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 25. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 58 stands objected to for the features of this claim allegedly not being adequately described in the Specification or shown in the drawings. Applicant has amended claim 58 to clarify the claim. Applicant respectfully submits that an exemplary first member is sheath 642, an exemplary second member is tab 651, an exemplary movable pusher member is pusher 646, and an exemplary slot in the first member is through-hole 674. All of the recited elements are shown in FIGS. 6B-C. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The Specification stands objected to because page 8, line 19 of the Specification recites the language "within sheath 42", which is not understood in the context of the disclosed invention. The Specification has been amended to delete "within sheath 42." Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to for allegedly failing to show the "uncovered portion in expanded configuration" and the "third member." Applicant respectfully submits that FIGS. 7A and 7D shows uncovered distal stent end 62 in an expanded configuration, and FIGS. 7A and 7B show suture 68 as the "third member." Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the features of claims 42, 52, 53, 57, and 58 are shown as discussed above. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Replacement page 6/9 (FIG. 7D) has not been approved because it is alleged that the reference number 50 appears to point to a blood vessel and not to a graft. Applicant has amended FIG. 7D to point to the graft, which is partially cut away to show structure within the graft. Approval of FIG. 7D is respectfully requested.

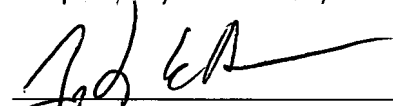
List of co-pending applications

The Office Action requested that Applicant provide a list of all co-pending applications that set forth similar subject matter to the present claims. Applicant respectfully submits that there are no co-pending applications that set forth similar subject matter to the present claims. The present application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/105,997 (issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,645,240), which is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/923,898 (issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,416,536), which is a Divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/337,120 (issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,398,802).

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Figures 7C-7D (1 sheet)

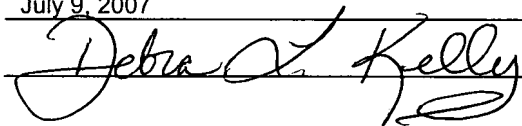
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July 9, 2007



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